

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting October 8, 2013 – Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, October 8, 2013. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado, Chair
M. Terri Medeiros, Vice Chair
Jennifer Ahearn, Clerk
Eugene A. Nadeau
Karen Bachus

ADMINISTRATION

Richard D'Agostino, Superintendent
Dennis Mullen, Director of Secondary Education
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
John Gannon, Interim Director of Special Services
David LaPlante, Director of Buildings & Grounds

MOTION 2013-220: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(9).

MOTION PASSES (3-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – [not present for vote]
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – [not present for vote]
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

Meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

The Chair announced in executive session two matters voted upon, an employee hearing with a vote of 4 ayes and 1 nay upholding the superintendent's recommendation (dissenter Ms. Bachus) and a vote of 4 ayes and 1 nay to accept legal counsel's recommendation (dissenter Ms. Ahearn).

Student comments:

Alexandra Lopes and Morgan Hobbs – grade 6 students at Greenwood Elementary
Kaitlyn Slatter and Nicholas Petrone – grade 8 students at Winman Junior High School

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2013-221: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for September 10, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – Aye
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

MOTION 2013-222: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for September 10, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – Aye
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

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Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2013-223: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2013-224: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Professional Personnel Items: Appointments:

MOTION 2013-225: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **John Livsey** K-12 district evaluation fellowship office (step 5) of the administrative pay scale, be approved for one year.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Nay
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

MOTION 2013-226: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Mia Millea**, elementary special Educator (Wickes Elementary School) Step 2 Category 1 be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

MOTION 2013-227: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, that the appointment of **Jacqueline DeNuccio**, special educator (Lippitt Elementary School) Step 2 be changed from category 1 to permanent.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

MOTION 2013-228: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Michael Neckritz**, secondary special educator, Step 8 be approved pending National and State BCI.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Retirements/resignations

MOTION 2013-229: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **resignation of Linda Noble**, English teacher (Pilgrim high School) be accepted effective August 24, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

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MOTION 2013-230: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **resignation of Laurence Birmingham**, special Educator (Winman) be accepted effective September 27, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Classified personnel items:

Appointments:

MOTION 2013-231: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Heather M. Baeszler**, Behavior Specialist II be approved effective upon approval.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Retirement/resignation:

MOTION 2013-232: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of Debra L. Petisce**, teacher assistant at Cedar Hill Elementary School be accepted effective December 20, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Coaching appointment:

MOTION 2013-233: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Melissa Heywood-Johnson**, assistant coach – field hockey at Toll Gate High School be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

GBP Update – Ms. Bilodeau reported 660 out of 664 seniors have submitted their proposal letter for senior projects. She also reported there are 227 seniors in need of intervention regarding their NECAP scores. She said progress plans had been sent home, parents have been notified and those students are enrolled in a remedial math class designed to help improve scores on NECAP. She also said 35 students took part in summer programs, a summer school class in Warwick or a free program at Community College of Rhode Island.

Approval of Administrative Step Increase to Steps 4 and 5 – Dr. D’Agostino explained that administrative steps are similar to that of teacher step increases [teacher steps are 1–10 and administrative steps are 1-5]. Administrative steps 1 through 3 are automatic, but steps 4 and 5 are recommended by the Superintendent with School Committee approval. He recommended step increases for 11 administrators moving from either step 3 to step 4, or step 4 to step 5, a process that needs committee approval according to the memorandum/list presented to the Committee in Executive Session.

MOTION 2013-234: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve and accept the superintendent’s recommendation for step increases.

MOTION PASSES (4-2)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Nay	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Nay	

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Policy IKFA – Warwick Diploma system – Waiver Amendment 1st reading – Mr. Mullen explained the new waiver process that is being presented for the first reading by the Committee. RIDE passed a ruling that all the districts create a waiver process. The waiver is a safety net for students who fail to bring up their NECAP scores and meet the state assessment graduation requirement. The Warwick Waiver System says that if a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the state assessment or other alternative test, he or she must present evidence to a district-based appeals committee that they mastered the material needed but the test does not show it. The student would have to show what they have done to make up for NECAP, math or reading. This proof includes serious student attempts on NECAP and alternative assessments, student attempts at intervention activities such as summer programs and ramp-up classes, and passing grades in courses and on assignments.

MOTION 2013-235: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval of the **first reading of the Waiver Amendment to Policy IKFA – Warwick Diploma system.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – Aye
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

Approval of Gorton Junior High School foreign language student trip to Quebec, Canada April 23rd-April 25th, 2014.

MOTION 2013-236: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Gorton Junior High School foreign language student trip to Quebec, Canada April 23rd-April 25th, 2014.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – Aye
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

Approval of Veterans High School student to participate in the 2013 All-National Honors Choir in Nashville, TN (October 27 through October 30, 2013 - Katherine Connors (sophomore at Veterans) has been selected as a member of the 2013 NAFME Honor Choir – she was ranked the number one soprano in the RIMEA All State Jr. Mixed Choir last year.

MOTION 2013-237: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of Katherine Connors to participate in the 2013 All-National Honors Choir in Nashville, Tennessee, October 27th through October 30th, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – Aye
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

Approval of Veterans High School Leadership Academy students' trip to Orlando, Florida – February 6th – February 9th, 2014.

MOTION 2013-238: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, approval of Veterans High School Leadership Academy students' trip to Orlando, Florida – February 6th – February 9th, 2014.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye	Karen Bachus – Aye
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye	

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Approval to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) – Mr. Ferrucci reported that three years ago the School Committee approved securing automatic external defibrillators for all of our schools. We were able to purchase only one or two from Moore Medical. Our current year's budget has enough funding to purchase the balance of what is needed and he recommended the purchase of the final 10 units. The total contract to be awarded is \$11,870 to Moore Medical.

MOTION 2013-239: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the recommendation [purchasing the final 10 units].

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Presentation on Differentiated Instruction – presented by Dr. Siesel – Dr. Siesel described the method as an instructional design model with a goal for teachers to focus on processes and procedures that ensure effective learning for varied individuals. The basic idea is that during regular class time, a teacher is able to tailor his or her teaching to each of the three levels of learners in a classroom: advanced learners, average learners and those who may struggle with the material. This method can be applied to four elements which include content, process, product and learning environment. Content could include using varied reading materials for those with different reading levels or meeting in small groups to re-teach or expand on a topic. Product means the activity the student engages in to understand the content, and this can be done through tiered activities with the same skills but different levels of challenge and complexity.

After the presentation, Mr. Nadeau questioned if it was putting too much strain on teachers that are already pushed to the limit, and said he had a concern that we're asking too much of our teachers. Ms. Ahearn asked what is currently being done for professional development, and Dr. Siesel responded we will be going to each elementary school to do a presentation. The strategies are not new, and we want to make sure that all teachers have resources.

Monthly Fiscal Report - Mr. Ferrucci:

For the period ending 9/25/2013

Total Revenue received	\$123,154,226
Total Expenditures	20,849,182
Total Encumbrances	12,034,492
[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]	

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs

Approved Budget 7/16/13	Revised Approved Budget 7/16/13	Year to Date Revised Approved TBD	Percentage of Exp.&Encumber 9/25/13	Non Staff Costs
\$24,842,824	\$25,762,824		\$14,456,743	56.1%

Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2013-240: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the previous bid award to Innovex for Hovercam and Smart Buy Elite Pad 900 be **revoked** and **re-awarded to Hub Technical** as per bid recommendation presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

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MOTION 2013-241: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the change order for summer capital projects be approved as per the tabulation presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

MOTION 2013-242: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the change order for Atlantic Abatement Corporation, in the amount of \$5,318.62 be approved as per tabulation presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Information and Proposals: Mr. Nadeau commented that he would like to make a motion. Attorney Healey stated you cannot make a motion without it being on the agenda, it is in violation of the open meetings law. You cannot add a motion to the agenda and can only amend an agenda with 48 hours notice to the public. Mr. Nadeau said he was disappointed and defers to legal, but really wanted to have a full-time librarian at each of the three junior high schools, saying it would benefit students, administrators and parents. He proposed we not wait until November and asked about having a special meeting. Ms. Healey said directives have been given, it had been voted on by the School Committee, and would need to be posted as a Motion to Reconsider. She suggested he submit his request in writing to the Chair and to the Superintendent. Ms. Ahearn proposed that the school committee meetings be broadcast live and proposed to put this on an upcoming agenda so we could move forward. Ms. Bachus commented on upcoming events, November 2nd “chopsticks” for VOWS and a blood drive/breakfast at the Jonah Center November 10th. The Superintendent said there will be a Special Education Advisory meeting on Wednesday at the Administration Building and Open House will be held at Aldrich on Thursday.

Public comment: Arnie Geller, PTA president at Winman said the library doors are closed several days a week and said this is not acceptable; the library needs to be open on a daily basis. Mary Tow, a librarian, said we have three busy, well-utilized library media centers. She also pointed out that differentiated learning occurs most often in the library, when teachers are able to provide their students with different resources. Darlene Netoch said that differentiated teaching has been around a long time and agreed with Mr. Nadeau it is something else being thrown on the teachers now. She said that Mr. Nadeau was right again and that the Gorton librarian position should be on the agenda, remarking money was found to continue the evaluation position which is an unfunded mandate yet again. Julie, a parent/volunteer and with a child at Aldrich, said she was a taxpayer and she was mad. These two women (librarians) are doing the job of six people. Another parent said that some students do not have computers at home and need to use the library. Stephanie, parent, said junior high years are crucial, they are a bridge from elementary to high school, and it was sad that only two are fighting for this. Heather a parent asked that consideration be made to hiring a third librarian. George Landri said he felt Gorton was being short changed and asked that the librarian be brought back. He also commented he didn't understand how differential teaching takes the place of ALAP – he didn't see the relationship of the two.

MOTION 2013-243: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye	M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye	Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye	

Meeting adjourned: 9:07 p.m.